

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions of the claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-25 (Canceled)

26. (Currently Amended) A collection device comprising:
a fluid-holding vessel comprising an open end, a closed end and a side wall having an inner surface;
a specimen retrieval device comprising a swab having a handle member, the specimen retrieval device being contained within the vessel; and
a pierceable cap fixed onto the open end of the vessel, wherein the cap positions the specimen retrieval device along the inner surface of the vessel and in a spaced-apart relationship to the longitudinal axis, ~~such that the specimen retrieval device does not significantly interfere with the movement of a fluid transfer device into or out of the collection device.~~

27. (Previously Presented) The collection device of claim 26, wherein the handle member includes a score line to facilitate removing a portion of the handle prior to fixing the cap onto the open end of the vessel.

28. (Currently Amended) The collection device of claim 26, wherein the ~~fluid transfer device is~~ cap can be pierced by a plastic pipette tip that enters the vessel in a generally parallel, spaced-apart relationship to the specimen retrieval device.

29. (Previously Presented) The collection device of claim 28, wherein the cap can be pierced by the pipette tip with the application of less than 8 pounds force.

30. (Previously Presented) The collection device of claim 26, wherein the cap further comprises a wick for inhibiting the release of an aerosol or bubbles from the collection device.

31. (Previously Presented) The collection device of claim 30, wherein the wick is a pile fabric.

32. (Previously Presented) The collection device of claim 30, wherein the cap includes a seal for retaining the wick within the cap.

33. (Previously Presented) The collection device of claim 26, wherein the cap has a generally conical inner wall.

34. (Previously Presented) The collection device of claim 33, wherein the conical inner wall includes a plurality of radially extending striations.

35. (Previously Presented) The collection device of claim 26, wherein the cap and the vessel include mated threads and the cap is screwed onto the open end of the vessel.

36. (Previously Presented) The collection device of claim 26, wherein the cap and the vessel are each formed from a plastic resin.

37. (Currently Amended) A collection device comprising:
a fluid-holding vessel comprising an open end, a closed end and a side wall having an inner surface;
a specimen retrieval contained within the vessel; and

a pierceable cap fixed onto the open end of the vessel, wherein the cap positions the specimen retrieval device along the inner surface of the vessel and in a spaced-apart relationship to the longitudinal axis, such that the specimen retrieval device does not significantly interfere with the movement of a plastic pipette tip into or out of the collection device.

38. (Currently Amended) The collection device of claim 37, wherein the specimen retrieval device comprises a swab having a handle member, and wherein the handle member includes a score line to facilitate removing a portion of the handle prior to fixing the cap onto the open end of the vessel cap can be pierced by a plastic pipette tip that enters the vessel in a generally parallel, spaced-apart relationship to the specimen retrieval device.

39. (Currently Amended) The collection device of claim ~~37~~ 38, wherein the cap can be pierced by the pipette tip with the application of less than 8 pounds force.

Claims 40-42 (Canceled)

43. (Previously Presented) The collection device of claim 37, wherein the cap has a generally conical inner wall.

44. (Previously Presented) The collection device of claim 43, wherein the conical inner wall includes a plurality of radially extending striations.

45. (Previously Presented) The collection device of claim 37, wherein the cap and the vessel include mated threads and the cap is screwed onto the open end of the vessel.

46. (Previously Presented) The collection device of claim 37, wherein the cap and the vessel are each formed from a plastic resin.

47. (Currently Amended) A collection device comprising:
a fluid-holding vessel comprising an open end, a closed end and a side wall having an inner surface;
a specimen retrieval contained within the vessel; and
a pierceable cap fixed onto the open end of the vessel, wherein the cap positions the specimen retrieval device along the inner surface of the vessel and in a spaced-apart relationship to the longitudinal axis, such that the specimen retrieval device does not significantly interfere with the movement of a fluid transfer device into or out of the collection device, and wherein the cap comprises a wick for inhibiting the release of an aerosol or bubbles from the collection device.

48. (Currently Amended) The collection device of claim ~~48~~ 47, wherein the specimen retrieval device is a swab having a handle member, and wherein the handle member includes a score line to facilitate removing a portion of the handle prior to fixing the cap onto the open end of the vessel.

49. (Currently Amended) The collection device of claim 47, ~~wherein the fluid transfer device is a plastic pipette tip, and wherein the cap can be pierced by the a plastic pipette tip with the application of less than 8 pounds force that enters the vessel in a generally parallel, spaced-apart relationship to the specimen retrieval device.~~

50. (Previously Presented) The collection device of claim 47, wherein the wick is a pile fabric.

51. (Previously Presented) The collection device of claim 47, wherein the cap includes a seal for retaining the wick within the cap.

52. (Previously Presented) The collection device of claim 47, wherein the cap has a generally conical inner wall.

53. (Previously Presented) The collection device of claim 52, wherein the conical inner wall includes a plurality of radially extending striations.

54. (Previously Presented) The collection device of claim 47, wherein the cap and the vessel include mated threads and the cap is screwed onto the open end of the vessel.

55. (Previously Presented) The collection device of claim 47, wherein the cap and the vessel are each formed from a plastic resin.

56. (New) The collection device of claim 49, wherein the cap can be pierced by the pipette tip with the application of less than 8 pounds force.